

Prof AM Silvestri

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3-25-90

A history of immunology
Dear Prof. Silvestri
I enjoyed your book (and your
generous treatment of my role in
clonal selection.)

Some day I mean to write in
more detail on the dynamics of
reception of the theory. I encountered
a lot of resistance, very little of
which seemed to have any rational
foundation — except for the messy
depth "reputation" by Attardi et
al. I've dealt briefly with that in
my memoir (enclosed). Pauling
probably still hasn't accepted it.

I suggest the accumulation of
chemical knowledge of antibody structure
finally was the key.

Of course germ-line redundancy and
somatic variation are both subsets of
clonal selection.

MC: June 1956 corresp.

Sincerely,
Lester L. Loh

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Unfortunately, I was not acquainted with your views in time to credit them at a symposium on gene-enzyme relationships which was held at Detroit early in November. Monod had gone so far as to imply that even in induced enzyme formation, the inducing substrate acts as a template for "molding" the enzyme -- in a rebuttal to this proposal, I was moved like yourself to question the same concept even for antibody formation, where there is at least some basis for it. I am told that this "natural selection" hypo-

I would appreciate the favor of a reprint of your note on antibody formation which appears in the No. V. 1955, Proc. Nat. Acad. U.S., and which has just come to my attention.

Dear Dr. Jerne:

Dr. Niels K. Jerne
State Serum Institute
Copenhagen, Denmark

December 28, 1955

sent with
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✓ 3/1/56